

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

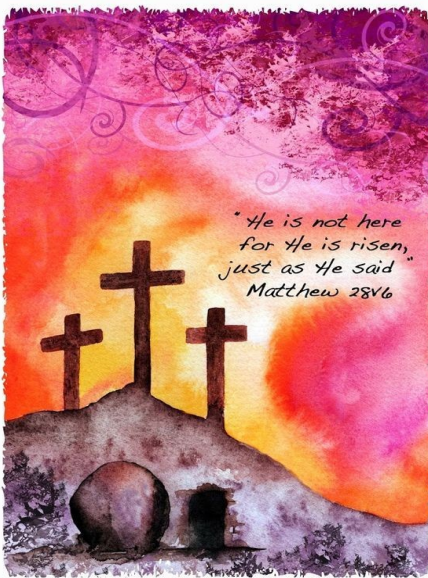
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THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

ALLELUIA!

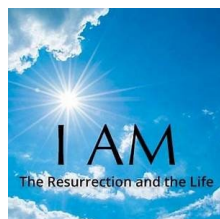
APRIL 2021



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Joy of Sunday School	Pg. 3
Lutheran Social Services of Illinois	Pg. 7-8
News from the Northwest Suburban Interfaith Council	Pg. 10
Board Briefs	Pg. 11
Sleeping Mats for the Homeless	Pg. 12

HE IS RISEN!



THE CROSS

The cross best proclaims the indisputable fact that we worship a caring God. It is the most popular of all Christian symbols. There is no Christianity without a cross. The cross shouts God's words of love to each of us. In it is hope for the hopeless, encouragement for the depressed, and the pronouncement of life for those who grieve the loss of a loved one or friend. Its importance to our faith cannot be overemphasized!!!! Its proclamation must never be subdued.

In Calvary God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself. The blood of Christ pouring down the cross **restored our broken relationship** with the Father. We can never fully understand God's mysterious plan to restore a creation gone astray, but we do know that everyone who comes to the cross in simple trusting faith are cleansed by Christ's blood and find peace with God.



A sermon and bulletin will be sent to you on Maundy Thursday. The sermon will be the last of our series "God's Love is Shown" and is entitled "Selfless Love." Join us via YouTube for our Good Friday Tenebrae Service as we continue to understand our brokenness and the brokenness of our world; and then through Christ and his cross allow God to restore what is broken.

EASTER!!

"Make it as secure as you can," Pilate tells the soldiers of the tomb of Jesus. During major sports events, the Academy Awards, the Olympics, we understand now that security is of the most importance – "Make it as secure as you can." Easter worship surrenders that impulse to create security to the ONE in whom we find our real security. The ONE who shakes the earth with the truth of resurrection is the ONE in whom we find ourselves and our hopes secure. God has raised Jesus Christ and entrusted to him absolutely everything because only the ONE who has suffered and died can be trusted with the precious things of human life. The angel gives us the message to share with each other: "He is going to Galilee; there you will see him." This is the Good News of Easter. "Don't look back at the empty tomb," the angel says, "he is not there, he has been raised."

I want to extend a personal invitation to you to join worship on Easter Sunday and each week throughout the Easter season. There are some commercials on TV which say, "It doesn't get any better than this." Christians reserve such praise for Easter!! Easter is the crown of the whole year, the queen of feasts, the highest Christian festival. Easter is the richest and most joyous season of the year. Truly, it doesn't get any better than this!!

So, don't miss out. Easter Sunday will be our first in-person worship since last March. The Festival of Easter, followed by the season of Easter (which lasts 7 weeks) is a time to awaken from sleep, to come alive, to begin anew. Don't let lesser concerns crowd out the joy and excitement of Easter. Don't let anything separate you from the God who delights in Easter surprises. Make the Easter Season your top priority!

For it is true, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! ALLELUIA!

Pastor Dave

EASTER TRIUMPH! EASTER JOY!!



JOYS OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

Jesus said to his disciples: "Let the little children come to me: do not stop them for it is to such of these that the kingdom of God belongs." Mark 10:14

Yay! The two May Sunday School sessions will meet in person at church!! If you know a child ages 3-11 years who does not have a church home, please invite them to experience the Joys of Sunday School at Good Shepherd. Information and registration forms are available by contacting the church office.

On the second Sunday in March our Bible story was in the Book of John 3:14-21, and we learned very special news about Jesus. Did you know Jesus is the Light of the World? We also learned one of the most important verses in the Bible is John 3:16, and that Jesus is a gift to us from God. That verse says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. In this passage it also says that people loved darkness, not light, because people were doing wrong things in the dark where no one could see, but those who do what is good come to the light, because that's where God is.

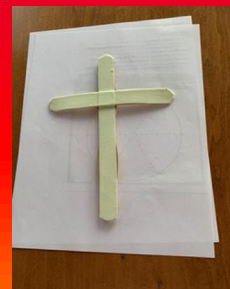
To remember that Jesus is the light of the world and that his love has given us eternal life, we made glow-in-the-dark crosses. To follow Jesus, we try to show Jesus' love to everyone we meet. Can we do this? Sure we can, because the Holy Spirit will help us. How wonderful is that? Miss Barb suggested the kids sing, "This Little Light of Mine" and "Whisper A Prayer."

The fourth Sunday in March, we had a VERY LONG Bible passage to read, from the book of Mark 11:1-11, 14:1-15:47. We divided up the verses so the children and their families could read one section each day of Holy Week. We hoped it would help them understand a little more about how special EASTER is. We learned that Jesus lived a human life on earth, one with lots of ups & downs, just like us. Ups & downs are just part of life. This text is a good example of that. In today's story, Jesus comes at a time in his life on earth when he has fulfilled everything God wants him to do. Even then, Jesus' life is filled with extremes of good & bad. Still, Jesus walks on, toward the cross and the giving of our salvation. Miss Barb sent us two songs to sing, "God's Promise" and "Fishers of Men."



Have a blessed and joyous Easter.
We have a great deal to be Joyful about, don't we?

Sunday School Schedule for April: April 11 & April 25th





EASTER 2021

What a joy to be able to come together in person, in the sanctuary, to celebrate Easter once again! Last year the pandemic was in its' initial stages, and we were heartbroken that circumstances forced us to "cancel" Easter in 2020. While we all knew it was for the best, it was very hard to remain quarantined during Holy Week and especially on Easter Sunday. But PRAISE GOD we have reached a point where we are able to gather together again to worship on this holiest of all days!

We would like to send a very special THANK YOU to **Nancy A.** for her faithful hard work in ordering and setting up our holiday flowers. The timing and uncertainty about the Easter service made this especially challenging; however, once the decision was made to meet in person, Nancy took care of the rest. We are grateful, because the Easter flowers make our sanctuary look especially festive on Resurrection Sunday.

Special thanks to ALL who worked through the challenges and preparation for our return to in-person worship after so long. We are blessed to have so many dedicated and hardworking members!

Happy Easter to all!!



The Renew, Revise and Rekindle Task Force met twice in March as the eight participants continued to discuss ideas and communications for reaching out to the congregation and surrounding community. As it gets closer to having safe gatherings, our advance preparations can start to take shape for summer and autumn. Thanks be to God!

Financial Report for February

	<u>Month</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$17,852	\$31,923
Expenses	21,960	39,328
FUND BALANCE	(\$ 3,868)	(\$ 6,740)

Thank you for your faithful giving!



Living Hope

How great the chasm that lay between us,
How high the mountain I could not climb.
In desperation I turned to heaven,
And spoke Your name into the night.

Then through the darkness Your loving-kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul;
The work is finished, the end is written.
Jesus Christ, my living hope!

Hallelujah! Praise the One who set me free!
Hallelujah! Death has lost its grip on me!
You have broken every chain,
There's salvation in Your name,
Jesus Christ, my living hope!

Who could imagine so great a mercy?
What heart could fathom such boundless grace?
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame.

The cross has spoken: I am forgiven.
The King of kings calls me His own.
Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever.
Jesus Christ, my living hope!

Hallelujah! Praise the One who set me free!
Hallelujah! Death has lost its grip on me!
You have broken every chain,
There's salvation in Your name,
Jesus Christ, my living hope!

Then came the morning that sealed the promise.
Your buried body began to breathe.
Out of the silence the Roaring Lion
Declared, "The grave has no claim on me!!"

Jesus, Yours is the Victory!



This
Changed
Everything!!!

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

This last year has been challenging for all of us. LSSI has remained committed to serving the whole person, listening with empathy and compassion just as we have since 1867. By promoting the dignity of people, valuing the diversity of human life, and helping people realize their full potential, we transform one life at a time. A ripple effect is felt as that transformation impacts and creates stronger relationships with others.

Whom LSSI Serves

Between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020, LSSI's services helped almost 44,000 children, adults, and seniors throughout Illinois. That is one of every 289 people in the state.

30% of children served by LSSI's Children's Community Services are under 5 years; and 18% of people served in all LSSI programs are between 25-34 years.

94% of LSSI's primary clients have household incomes below \$25,000; 74% have incomes below \$5,000.

1 of every
289 people

MISSION STATEMENT

Responding to the Gospel, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) brings healing, justice, and wholeness to people and communities.

COVID-19 Response

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all of us. LSSI continued critical services while also following necessary safety guidelines to support our clients and staff. We continue to focus on our mission and provide services wherever and whenever possible.

LSSI was 1 of 18 Illinois nonprofits who received funding through the 2nd round of the Illinois COVID-19 Response Fund, helping us provide direct support to the people we serve; 4,368 individuals were served as a result of this grant.

"Success is measured not by what you have, but by whom you help along the way."

Evelia Rivera, Therapeutic Foster Parent

Foster Care Services

As the largest provider of Foster Care Services in Illinois, we care for children who have been removed from their birth families due to abuse and/or neglect and we place them with foster families who receive training and support from LSSI. Our primary goal is to help children find their forever home, either by reunification with birth families whenever possible or through adoption. LSSI continues to provide specialized Therapeutic Foster Care through an evidence-based treatment program that places children with histories of severe trauma and emotional/behavioral needs into single-family homes rather than institutional settings.

2,729 children were served through Foster Care placements.

Since May 2017, LSSI's Therapeutic Foster Care program has enrolled 59 children with 33 youth successfully completing the program.

1001 E. TOUHY AVENUE, SUITE 50 • DES PLAINES, ILLINOIS 60018 • LSSI.ORG • 847.635.4600

Intact Family Services

Designed to stabilize, strengthen, enhance, and preserve family life by enabling children to remain safely at home, Intact Family Services works with families who have come to the attention of Illinois DCFS.

1,254 families were enrolled in this program.



LSSI's Strategic Planning

To guide our mission, LSSI developed a 3-year strategic plan, with a primary focus on outcomes of dignity, full potential, and health and well-being. We will continue to respond with whole-person, value-based services by building and strengthening the ecosystems that connect and integrate care for children, adults, and families.



The Storybook Project

With the help of dedicated, well-trained volunteers and donated new children's books, LSSI's Storybook Project continues to connect incarcerated parents with their children. At 14 Illinois prisons and jails, incarcerated moms and dads read and record a book. LSSI mails the book and recording to their child.

3,703 children received books from their incarcerated parents through 67 events before the pandemic temporarily suspended programming.



"Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love."
1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Affordable Housing

For older adults and people over the age of 18 with disabilities, LSSI provides affordable housing at 20 housing sites throughout Illinois. A Social Service Coordinator is available at every site to assist residents.

LSSI provided affordable housing to 1,446 residents with an annual income between \$5,000 and \$25,000.



Alcohol and Drug Treatment

LSSI provides a full continuum of targeted Alcohol and Drug Treatment for individuals, beginning with medically assisted detox, all the way through residential care and transitional housing.

LSSI served 3,207 clients with alcohol/drug issues.

LSSI's programs consistently outperform other comparable services throughout Illinois.

Mental Health Services

LSSI's Welcoming Center is a safe, walk-in emergency department alternative for people experiencing behavioral health symptoms like anxiety, depression, bi-polar disorder, substance use, and post-traumatic stress. Project IMPACT (Immediate Multidisciplinary Pre-Screening Assessment Crisis Team) uses a creative wrap-around behavioral health model with trained counselors available 24 hours a day, every day, to help people experiencing a behavioral, psychiatric, or addiction crisis. LSSI's Step-Up School-Based Counseling services partner with 58 Chicago Public Schools to provide needed mental health care to grammar and high school-age students.

LSSI provided critical mental health services to 18,660 clients.



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



Funding provided in part by the Department of Human Services/Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse. Illinois Licensed Child Welfare Agency - License #013005.

LSSI does not discriminate in admission to programs or employment in compliance with the law.



You Say... God Says...

I can't figure it out.

I will direct your steps. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

I'm too tired.

I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28-30)

It's impossible.

All things are possible. (Luke 18:27)

Nobody loves me.

I love you. (John 3:16)

I can't forgive myself.

I forgive you. (Romans 8:1)

It's not worth it.

It will be worth it. (Romans 8:28)

I'm not smart enough.

I will give you wisdom. (1 Corinthians 1:30)

I'm not able.

I am able. (2 Corinthians 9:8)

I can't go on.

My grace is sufficient. (2 Corinthians 12:9)

I can't do it.

You can do all things. (Phil. 4:13)

I can't manage.

I will supply all your needs. (Phil. 4:19)

I'm afraid.

I have not given you fear. (2 Timothy 1:7)

I feel all alone.

I will never leave you. (Hebrews 13:5)

*Man says... Show me
and I'll trust you.*

*God says... Trust me
and I'll show you.*

Psalm 126:6

TRUST GOD

God is not a man, that He should lie,
Nor a son of man, that He should repent;
Has He said, and will He not do it?
Or has He spoken, and will He not
make it good?

Numbers 23:19

Macdonald Augurini

To trust God in the light is nothing,
but trust him in the dark—

that is faith.

c.h. spurgeon



News from the Northwest Suburban Interfaith Council

By Joanne Dicker, a Congregation Beth Judea Representative

Happy Holidays for those celebrating Passover (evening March 27-April 4); Easter (April 4) and Ramadan (April 12-May 12). Spring is a reminder of renewal and hope; of new promises, new growth and opportunities. Please join us and your neighbors for these new programs:

Tuesday, April 6 7-8:30 p.m.: Food for Thought with the Tri Faith Initiative and Children of Abraham Coalition: An evening of interfaith storytelling, recipe sharing and discussion about hunger in our nation.

Spring: Save the Monarch Butterflies: Join the NWSIFC and Sierra Club Milkweed for Monarchs Survival Campaign. At our participating congregations we will be planting gardens or supplementing existing gardens with Milkweed and other nectar plants to support monarch butterflies.

Save the date:

May 23 at 5 pm: Virtual Tour of Jerusalem. Look for upcoming flier.

June 27: i-Walk Against Hunger! Will it be virtual, live or both? Look for upcoming flier.

Ongoing: Food Pantries. Please help your neighbors whose lives have been adversely affected by the pandemic economically. The Northwest Suburban Interfaith Council helps **support four food pantries** of our member congregations located at Congregation Beth Am, Kingswood Methodist Church, St. Alphonsus and St. Mary Parish. Your **monetary donations** are always welcome but especially needed at this time of year.

The Northwest Suburban Interfaith Council proudly serves this community.

Joanne Dicker

For more information on any of our programs, please contact us by e-mail or telephone: nwsinterfaith@gmail.com, 224-699-0386 or visit our website at: <http://www.northwestsuburbaninterfaith.org>

Donations may be made directly to: Northwest Suburban Interfaith Council
PO Box 5301, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089

As Spring reminds us of the rebirth of nature after a winter's nap, the spring holidays of Passover, Lent/Easter, and Ramadan remind us of celebration, food and fellowship.

Join Tri-Faith Initiative and The Children of Abraham Coalition for an evening of interfaith storytelling, recipe sharing, and discussion about hunger in our nation.

Save the Date Food for Thought

Tuesday, April 6th

7-8:30 PM CST

Virtual Event



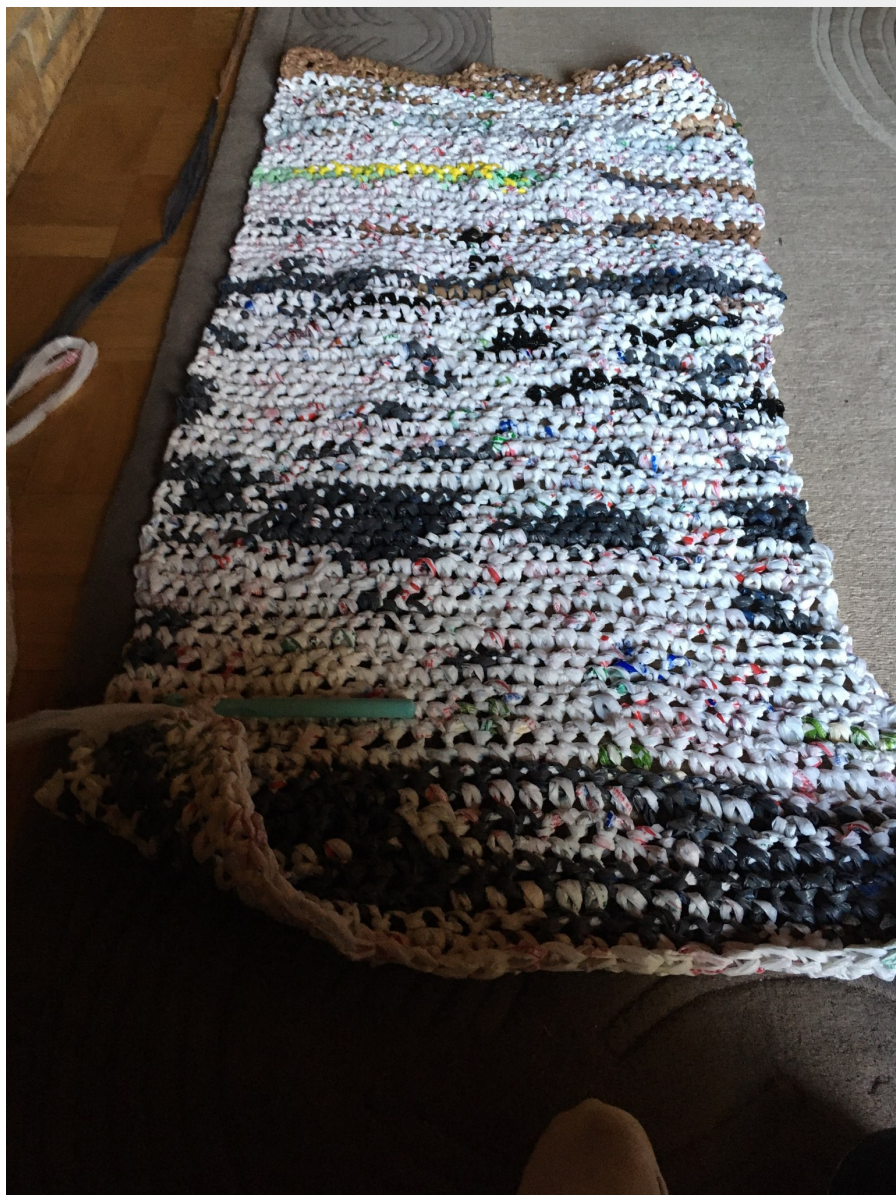
BOARD BRIEFS

At the Zoom Board meetings in February and March, 2021, the following were discussed:

1. Board Officers were elected: President - Terry O.; Vice-President - Ken S.; Board Secretary - Pauline S.; Treasurer - Steve B.; Financial Secretary - Paul S.
2. The Lenten Bible Study is going well, every Wednesday of Lent at 6:00 PM. Pr. Dave is hoping to continue some Bible Study after Easter.
3. The BIG NEWS is that we will be having in-person worship for Easter! Two services, with appropriate safety precautions and limited capacity. Pastor will announce this and instruct us on how to reserve a worship time; Worship and Music is working on the details to make this happen. We are endeavoring to tape an Easter service beginning to end, and post it on YouTube later. Please be aware that this will look a bit different than our current recordings.

Crochet Sleeping Mats for the Homeless with Plastic Bags

Looking for something to do with your extra time? Here is a suggestion that will help rid your home of all those unwanted plastic grocery bags, give you something to fill empty hours, AND help the homeless at the same time: crochet sleeping mats for the homeless. Pictured below is a mat that Chuck B. made in his spare time. Once you learn how, it is not



hard to do and really helpful for those who have to sleep outside. The plastic acts not only as insulation against the cold pavement, but makes it a little softer as well. Instructions can be found online, but if there is interest, Chuck B. has said he'd be willing to teach a "class" on this here at the church! He also has a resource to pick up finished mats and deliver them to agencies that can use them. If you are interested, please let the church office know and we will begin to put a class-time together!



The *Women's Network of LSSI* annual event will be different this year. It will be a virtual medley of four events from Wednesday, May 12 to Saturday, May 15. It includes a professional cooking class! Learn more at LSSI.org/Fling.



40 DAYS OF GIVING DURING LENT

From Ash Wednesday, February 17,
to Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021

Thank you to all who have given financial support to ELCA World Hunger during the 40 days of this 2021 Lenten Season! It is obvious that our congregation is generous in caring about hungry people around the world. Donations will continue to be accepted on Easter Sunday. The final report will be given in a few weeks.

You have the power to make
a difference in their lives.



JOURNEYS JOURNAL
April 2021



www.journeystheroadhome.org

In the beginning of March, JOURNEYS clients started to receive COVID-19 vaccines. Over 60 clients have now been fully vaccinated. It took a lot of hard work, organization and communication to accomplish this important process.

Groundbreaking Ceremony "Building for HOPE" will be on Saturday, April 24th at 10:00 AM. You can watch the livestream on YouTube.

Numerous fundraising events are being planned, such as "HOP Into Spring," "Be a Superhero for the Homeless (5K)," "Dine to Donate" at MOD Pizza and Panera,

and a "Virtual Comedy Night" with 4 professional comedians. For more information on any of these events, or to donate, go to www.journeystheroadhome.org.

Volunteer opportunities are available. Whether you can volunteer once a week, or once a month, or even once a year, there may be a volunteer position available for you. JOURNEYS has created an electronic orientation. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Heidi Meier at h.meier@journeystheroadhome.org.



***Thank
You
From
Wheeling
Township***



The following is a Thank You received from Wheeling Township as congregation members delivered Meals On Wheels during March. What a blessing to be a part of a program that means so much to those in our community!

Dear Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd,

Thank you so much for helping to deliver meals to our seniors during the month of March! Your time and compassion is appreciated so very much. I look forward to working with all of you again next March.

If any of you might be interested in volunteering for our Home Delivered Meal Program (Meals on Wheels) more often, let me know. We're always looking for additional drivers.

Again, thank you, and Happy Easter to all of you 😊

Lynndah Easterwood Lahey

Director of Senior/Disability Services and Transportation
Wheeling Township

Also, don't forget to bring donations for the Wheeling Township Food Pantry on **Easter Sunday AND/OR the third Friday of each month.**

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

*A CONGREGATION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
A STEPHEN MINISTRY CONGREGATION*

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E-mail the church office at
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Rev. David Beese, Pastor

Gloria Sun Oh, Organist

Susan Baushke, Choir Director

Nancy Krieg, Office Administrator

COVID-19 Office hours: Monday – Friday

8:00 AM to noon

“Knowing Christ and Making Him Known”

We're on the web:
www.lcgoodshepherd.com

